FRENCH

1943

1

F.O.
371

FRENCH AFRICA

FILE No 7959

CLOSED
UNTIL
1972

36324

1

Z

1943

FRENCH AFRICA 2

Z 7959
2
18 JUL 1943

Registry Number Z 7959/7959/69

TELEGRAM FROM
Minister Resident (Algiers)

No. 7 saving

Dated 3rd July 1943

Received in Registry 18th July 1943

Z : French Africa

French refugees from Libya in Tunisia, who wish to return home

Addressed to Minister of State, Cairo No. 177.
Commissariat of Foreign Affairs state that there are in Tunisia about 1,000 French subjects who were expelled from their homes in Libya by the Italians in July and August 1942. Commissariat would like to meet wishes of those who want to return home, and have necessary particulars available.
Asks what reply should be given.
(Repeated Consul General Tunis 2).

Last Paper.

✓

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Col Wood. W.O.4
July 17

7) Mr. Peake (on Z8478) Aug 13.

36324

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

Z 8345

(Minutes.)

Copies to Col. Wood, W.O.4.

Southern 1/Sept. 20/7

A.R. 18/7

24882 1/43 F.O.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

[En clair].

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

3

FROM RESIDENT MINISTER ALGIERS TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE CAIRO

No. 177
3rd July, 1943.

D. 3rd July, 1943.
R. 4.30 p.m. 17th July, 1943.

Repeated to FOREIGN OFFICE NO. 7 Saving,
Tunis (Consul-General) No. 2.

Z 7959
18 JUL 1943

////

Commissariat for Foreign Affairs state that there are in Tunisia about 1,000 French subjects and protected persons who were expelled from their homes in Libya by the Italians in July and August, 1942. Commissariat would like to meet the wishes of those who request to be returned to their homes. The Commissariat are ready to supply full particulars of the individuals and their domiciles.

2. I shall be grateful if you will let me know what to reply.

[Copies sent to Sir E. Bridges and Mr. Armstrong].

F.O. REGISTRY

File Number :—

Z 7959

FRENCH.

FRENCH AFRICA

1943

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1943

Z

2

FRENCH AFRICA

Z 8345
4
29 JUL 1943

z *Registry Number* } Z 8345/7959/69

FROM Lord Killearn
Cairo

No. 681 (166/30/43).

Dated 20th July, 1943.

Received in Registry } 29th July, 1943.

Z: French Africa.

Repatriation to Tripolitania and Cyrenaica of French refugees in Tunisia

Copy of letter from Civil Affairs Branch, General Headquarters, Middle East Force, of 16th July, referring to Minister Resident Algiers telegram No. 177 to Minister of State, Cairo. (Z 7959/7959/69). States that there is no objection to the return home of French subjects previously domiciled in Tripolitania, & suggests that repatriation should be locally arranged between the Tunisian and Tripolitanian authorities. Explains that persons domiciled in Cyrenaica must return by sea, and requests list of names of those concerned.

Last Paper.

Z 7959

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

8) Col Wood. M.O.4. July 30.

7) Mr. Peake (on Z 8478) Aug 13.

(Action completed.)

B.A.S. 30/7

(Index.)

20/11

Next Paper.

Z 8478

(*Minutes.*)

Copy Col. Wood. M.O.4. ref.

A.R. 30/7

25251 4/43 F.O.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

WO 17/VR

No. 681 / Z

(6/30/43)

Z 8345

29 JUL 1943

5

His Majesty's Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith copy of the undermentioned paper.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
CAIRO.

20th July 19 43.

Reference to previous communication :

—

Description of Enclosure.

Name, Date, etc.	Subject.
From: Civil Affairs Branch G.H.Q. M.E.F.	Return of French subjects and others domiciled in Tripolitania.

(16864) Wt.35013/683 5,000 1/41 A.&E.W.Ltd. **Gp.685**

6

COPY. /VR

No. 11286/243/CA.
CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH,
GHQ. MEF.
16th July 1943.

The First Secretary,
The British Embassy,
CAIRO.

Z 1959/1959/69

With reference to a telegram No. 177 of 3rd July, of which a copy was sent to this Headquarters under cover of your note No. 166/29/43 of 7th July, I am directed to inform you that there is no objection to the return of French subjects and protected persons previously domiciled in Tripolitania provided that the frontier control measures concerted by the D.C.C.A.O. Tripolitania with the French Authorities are respected. It is suggested that the repatriation of these persons should be a matter for local arrangement between the authorities of Tunisia and Tripolitania.

2. It is presumed that the majority of the French subjects and protected persons concerned are normally domiciled in Tripolitania. Those who come from Cyrenaica cannot be repatriated overland through Tripolitania owing to lack of civil transport and they must therefore return by sea when this is possible. It is requested that the names of French subjects for repatriation to Cyrenaica may be reported to this Headquarters with particulars of address and occupation. The D.C.C.A.O. Cyrenaica will be asked to recommend in each case for or against the return of the person concerned.

.....

For Colonel
Chief Secretary.

File Number :—

Z 7959

FRENCH.

FRENCH AFRICA

1943

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Z

1943

FRENCH AFRICA 2

Z 8478

3 AUG 1943

7

Registry Number Z 8478/7959/69

FROM Mr. Johnson (Brit. Miss. to the Fr. Nat. Cttee.) to Mr. Speaight

No.

Dated 30th July 1943

Received in Registry 3rd August 1943

Z : French Africa

Repatriation of French subjects expelled from Lybia by the Italians

Copy of Aide Memoire dated 30th July, calling attention to the plight of some 2,500 French subjects expelled from Lybia by the Italian authorities in July 1942, and asking for the agreement of His Majesty's Government to the principle of the return to their homes of those who can prove that they are domiciled in Lybia.

Observes that Mr. Macmillan has already been approached.

Last Paper.

Z 8345

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

Aft. Mr Johnson, British Mission from Sir A Rumbold Aug 6

Tel 1583 to Min Res, Algiers Aug 11

Repeated Min. of State, Cairo 2541.

2) Mr. Peake (with Z 7959 & Z 8345) Aug. 13

3) Col. French, W.O., Lon 28992 Aug 18

(*Minutes.*)

Letter to Mr. Johnson.

A.R. 5/8

(1) Please see Mr. Peake's letter of August 6th within.

I had assumed from Z 8345 that this question ~~is~~ was being dealt with through Mr. Macmillan and that the note addressed to the Embassy in Cairo by G.H.Q., Middle East would form the basis for an answer to Mr. Macmillan's telegram at Z 7959. In any case it is clear from this note that the matter comes within the jurisdiction of G.H.Q., Middle East, and does not, as M. Vienot ~~says~~ hints, have to be referred to London.

I attach a draft telegram ~~too for~~ for Mr. Macmillan to clear the situation up.

A. Rumbold

August 11th, 1943.

Mr. Dransfort, a member of M. Vienot's staff, also spoke to me about this. I shd. be glad, therefore, if something could be said to him when the reply come.

(Action completed.) Copy 7/8

(Index.)

Next Paper.

Z 8992

25251 4/43 F.O.P.

comes in from Algiers.

I.S. Somers Cocks

8 11/8

Rembrant with out tel

Y&A

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

BRITISH MISSION TO THE
FRENCH NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
3, CLEVELAND ROW,
St. JAMES'S,
LONDON, S.W.1.

9

July 30th 1943.

Eden
pms 31/7

WITH MR. JOHNSON'S COMPLIMENTS.

Z 8478
3 AUG 1943

R.L.Speaight Esq.,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

COPY.

10

COMITE FRANCAIS DE LA
LIBERATION NATIONALE.

Affaires Etrangères.

4, Carlton Gardens,
S.W.1.

Londres, le 30 juillet 1943.

AIDE-MEMOIRE.

Le Comité Français de la Libération Nationale signale qu'environ deux mille cinq cents ressortissants français expulsés de Lybie en juillet 1942 sur l'ordre des autorités italiennes, dans des conditions matérielles extrêmement précaires, sont restés séparés de leurs familles demeurées sur place.

Le Comité serait heureux que le Gouvernement britannique veuille bien donner son accord de principe pour le rapatriement de ceux de ces réfugiés qui en feraient la demande, pouvant justifier d'un domicile régulier en Lybie et dont le nombre s'élèverait à environ un millier.

M. Macmillan a d'ailleurs été saisi directement à Alger de la question du rapatriement de ces ressortissants français dont il conviendrait, pour des considérations évidentes d'humanité, de régler la situation pénible aussi rapidement que possible.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No Z 8478/7959/69

A.R.

Draft.

Mr. Johnson,
3, Cleveland Row.

(from Sir A.Rumbold)

2

OUT FILE

August, 1943.

6-

11

Dear Johnson,

Please refer to your note to Speaight of July 30th enclosing a copy of an aide memoire handed to you by Carlton Gardens about the repatriation of French citizens expelled from Libya by the Italians.

I enclose copies of (a) Mr. Macmillan's telegram to the Minister of State No. 177 of July 3rd from which you will see that the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs took the matter up direct with him, and of (b) a note from the Civil Affairs Branch of G.H.Q. in Cairo to the Embassy showing that there is no objection to the return of the Frenchmen in question to Libya provided certain conditions are fulfilled.

If Carlton Gardens ask you for news of the matter these papers will enable you to reply.

Yours
(sd) A.Rumbold.

A.R.
5/8

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUT FILE

(Z 8478/7959/69)

12

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

6th August, 1943.

Dear Johnson,

Plesse refer to your note to Speeight of 30th July enclosing a copy of an aide memoire handed to you by Carlton Gardens about the repatriation of French citizens expelled from Libya by the Italians.

I enclose copies of (a) Mr. Macmillan's telegram to the Minister of State No. 177 of 3rd July from which you will see that the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs took the matter up direct with him, and of (b) a note from the Civil Affairs Branch of General Headquarters in Cairo to the Embassy showing that there is no objection to the return of the Frenchmen in question to Libya provided certain conditions are fulfilled.

If/

A. Johnson, Esq.,
3, Cleveland Row.
S.W.1

13

If Carlton Gardens ask you for news of the matter these papers will enable you to reply.

Yours

(sd) J. Rumbold.

(A. Rumbold.)

BRITISH MISSION TO THE
FRENCH NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
3, CLEVELAND ROW,
ST. JAMES'S,
LONDON, S.W.1.

INDEXED

August 6th 1943.

Z 8478 / 7959 / 69
13 AUG 1943

Dear Richard,

Reference the copy of the Aide-Mémoire from Carlton Gardens sent you by Johnson on the 30th July, regarding the French nationals who are at present refugees in Southern Tunisia from Tripolitania and whom the Committee of Liberation is anxious to see repatriated as soon as possible.

Viénot spoke to me about this question yesterday and asked me if I would bring it to your attention. He said that the Committee had taken this up in Algiers but understood that it was a matter which could only be settled in London by the issue of instructions to the military commanders on the spot. I gather there are in all some 2000 of them and that the Committee at Algiers would be greatly relieved if they could be allowed to return to their homes.

Yours ever,

Charles Peake

R.L.SPEAIGHT Esq.,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. Z 8478/7959/69

H.A.C.R.

Draft.

Resident Minister's Office,
Algiers.

Telegram.

No. 1583
aug 11th

Cypher

Departmental No. 1.

Copy to:

Colonel French,
War Office.

Repeat to:

Cairo. M/State
2541

Copy Mr. Peake
ref. with copy
of Z 6959 + Z 8345.

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

12 August 1943.

Despatched 3 p *M.* 15

Your telegram No. 177 to the Deputy Minister of State, Cairo [of July 3rd: repatriation of French refugees to their homes in Libya].

H.M. Embassy at Cairo have sent us a copy of a note received by them from G.H.Q., Middle East stating ~~in part~~ that there was no objection to the return of these French citizens to their homes provided certain conditions were fulfilled, and suggesting that their repatriation should be a matter for local arrangement between the authorities in Tunisia and Tripolitania.

2. I had assumed that the substance of this note had been passed to you and that you had made it the basis for ~~the~~ a reply to the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs. M. Vienot has, however, now approached us on the subject stating that the French

Committee/

16

Committee understood that the matter was one which could only be settled in London.

3. What is the position?

1552
11/8

2 copies sent to Sir E Bridges & Mrs Armstrong

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUT FILE

17

Z 8478/7959/69

[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL No.1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO RESIDENT MINISTER'S OFFICE ALGIERS

No. 1583 D. 3 p.m. August 12th, 1943.

August 11th, 1943.

Repeated to Minister of State Cairo No. 2541.

bbbb

Your telegram No. 177 to the Deputy Minister of State, Cairo [of July 3rd: repatriation of French refugees to their homes in Libya].

His Majesty's Embassy at Cairo have sent us a copy of a note received by them from General Headquarters, Middle East stating in part that there was no objection to the return of these French citizens to their homes provided certain conditions were fulfilled, and suggesting that their repatriation should be a matter for local arrangement between the authorities in Tunisia and Tripolitania.

2. I had assumed that the substance of this note had been passed to you and that you had made it the basis for a reply to the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs. M. Vienot has, however, now approached us on the subject stating that the French Committee understood that the matter was one which could only be settled in London.

3. What is the position?

[Copies sent to Sir E. Bridges and Mr. Armstrong]

O.T.P.

File Number :—

Z 7959

FRENCH.

FRENCH AFRICA

1943

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1943

Z

FRENCH AFRICA 7

Z 8992

17 AUG 1943

18

Registry Number } Z 8992/7959/69

TELEGRAM FROM
Minister Resident
(Algiers)

No. 1480 (code)

Dated 16th August 1943

Received in Registry } 17th August 1943

Z : French Africa

Repatriation of French subjects expelled from Lybia by theItalians.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram No.1583 (Z 8478/7959/69).

Confirms that Note in question was addressed to the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs on 27th July. The Commissariat state that Tunis Residency has been in touch with Tripolitanian authorities, and the first batch is to leave very shortly.

Commissariat had sent instructions to Monsieur Viénot before receiving British note on 27th July.

(Repeated Minister of State, Cairo.)

Last Paper.

Z 8478

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Peake Aug 18
Col French
[with out. tel 1583 on Z8478]
Aug 18th

(Minutes.)

Copy to Peake, Col. French, reg.

I have told in Frankfort.

A.R. 18/8

For further developments, see W papers (file - 110181/48)

A.R. 25/8

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

24882 1/43 F.O.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

19
END

Z 8992

17 AUG 1943

[CODE R] DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM ALGIERS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Resident Minister,
No. 1480
16th August 1943

D. 2.20 a.m. 17th August 1943

R. 6.30 a.m. 17th August 1943

Repeated to Minister of State, Cairo.

Your telegram No. 1583. 2848 / 79 / 61

Assumption in first sentence of your paragraph 2 is correct. I addressed note to the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs on July 27th.

2. Commissariat for Foreign Affairs have to-day informed me that Tunis Residency has been in touch with Tripolitanian authorities and that all arrangements have been made for first batch to leave to-day or tomorrow.

3. Commissariat for Foreign Affairs had sent instructions to Vienot before receiving our note of July 27th.

[Copies sent to Sir E. Bridges and Mr. Armstrong.]

17 AUG 1943 F.O. REGISTRY

File Number :—

Z 7959

FRENCH.

FRENCH AFRICA

1943

SUPPLIED
FOR THE
PUBLIC SERVICE

French Refugees from Libya in Tunisia. Code 69 File 7959. 1943. MS Refugee Records from the General Correspondence Files of the Political Departments of the Foreign Office, Record Group 371, 1938-1950 FO 371/36324. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). Refugees, Relief, and Resettlement: Forced Migration and World War II, link.gale.com/apps/doc/ABNONR767608074/RRRW?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-RRRW&xid=4d74fb41&pg=1. Accessed 18 Apr. 2022.